

Remarks

Objections to the Specification

In response to the Office Action of October 26, 2005, Applicants have amended the Specification to include the application serial number for the provisional application filed November 10, 203. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is respectfully requested.

35. U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections – Anticipation

Claims 1-5, and 8 stand rejected as being anticipated by Otti (US 1,324,515) (*see* Office Action p. 2). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include limitations of former claims 9 and 12, which claims have been cancelled. The current application teaches a separate feature 350 t drain after-condensed matter. There is also a notch 420 in the port, to allow liquid to drip through. The claimed regulator is used in the context of distillation, where it is important to allow materials that condense, as volatiles are vented, to drip out from the regulator via the drain. Otti does not disclose or claim a regulator having a drain orifice in a vessel, as required by amended claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not anticipated, and request withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection of anticipation.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections – Obviousness

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected for reasons of obviousness based on Otti and the knowledge generally available to one skilled in the art for determining a set point for the pressure regulator. As amended, claim 1 requires a drain orifice in a vessel, and claims 4 and 5 depend on claim 1. There is nothing in Otti that suggests adding a drain orifice, or that there is even a need for a drain orifice, and given that the Otti reference relates to regulating delivery of air (oxygen)

to a carburetor in an automotive vehicle, the motivation to amend the Otti regulator to add a drain orifice for draining liquid from the regulator is lacking, both in the reference itself and the knowledge generally available in the field, especially since it is not obvious that there would be anything to drain in the Otti air regulator, as described. Applicants therefore submit the claims 4 and 5 are not obvious, and request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection under 35 USC § 103(a).

Applicants petition for a two-month extension of time and enclose a check in the amount of \$450.00 to cover the three-month extension fee. If any other fees are required for the timely consideration of this application, please charge such additional fees due to Deposit Account No. 19-4972.

For the reasons stated above, it is submitted that all the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Consideration of the application and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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